



File Code: 1950

Date: December 13, 2021

Dear planning participant,

This letter is to inform you that the Three Rivers Ranger District has completed the final environmental assessment (EA) for the Bulldog project. The Bulldog project area is approximately 43,600 acres in size and located in Ferry County, Washington, within the South Fork Boulder subwatershed.

I have decided to authorize the proposed action which includes 7,014 acres of commercial treatment as well as 9,451 acres of non-commercial vegetation and fuels treatments, and 15,096 acres of surface fuels treatments. More specifics on the activities of this project can be found in the final environmental assessment. The final EA, draft Decision Notice (DN), and implementation guide will be available during the objection period at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54007>. The objection period is expected to begin on or near December 15, 2021 and will be announced with a legal notice in the newspaper of record, the *Statesman Examiner*.

The Bulldog project analysis is comprised of a set of 3 documents. The DN, EA, and implementation guide are the main documents, with more detailed resource information in specialist reports located in the project record. To best understand what actions are authorized under the Bulldog project, and the reasons for deciding to authorize those actions, please refer to the decision notice first. Once you've read the DN, you'll find more specific information about those resources of interest for you in the EA. You'll also find details consistency with the Forest Plan there as well. The implementation guide documents best management practices to be followed during pre-sale and contracting phases for readers who want to learn more about how the project will be implemented on the ground. Readers who would like a full and detailed understanding about specific resources will find that information in the project record specialist reports.

For additional information about how to object, or to request a paper copy of any of the documents listed above, contact Holly Hutchinson, Environmental Coordinator, at holly.hutchinson@usda.gov or 509-738-7737.

Instructions for Objections

The draft decision notice is subject to a 45-day objection period pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. The 45-day objection period begins on the date of publication of the legal notice in the newspaper of record (*Statesman Examiner*, Colville, Washington). Only individuals or organizations that submitted specific written comments during a designated opportunity for public participation (the scoping period or the 30-day comment period) are eligible to object (36 CFR 218.5). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity and attributed to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after these opportunities for comment.

Notices of objection must meet the minimum requirement of 36 CFR 218.8(d). Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided for at 36 CFR 218.8(b). Minimum requirements are as follows:



1. Objector's name and address as defined in 218.2, with a telephone number, if available;
2. Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);
3. When multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector as defined in 218.2. Verification of the lead objector must be provided upon request or the reviewing officer will designate a lead objector as provided in 218.S(d);
4. The name of the proposed project, the name and title of the responsible official, and the name(s) of the national forest(s) and/or ranger district(s) on which the proposed project will be implemented;
5. A description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project; if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and
6. A statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunity(ies) for comment.

The Responsible Official for this project is Joshua White, Three Rivers District Ranger. The Reviewing Officer is Rodney Smoldon, Forest Supervisor for the Colville National Forest.

Objections must be postmarked or received by the Reviewing Officer within 45 days from the publication date of the legal notice in the *Statesman Examiner*, Colville, WA. The publication of the legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to file an objection should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

For emailed objections, the sender should receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of receipt for an objection, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely filing by other means.

Objections may be mailed to: Forest Supervisor, Objection Reviewing Officer, Attn: Objections, 765 South Main, Colville, WA 99114. Objections may be emailed to: objections-pnw-colville@usda.gov. Please put OBJECTION and the project name in the subject line. Electronic objections must be submitted as part of an actual email message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf) only. Emails submitted to email addresses other than the one listed, or in formats other than those listed, or containing viruses, will be rejected. Objections may also be faxed to: Forest Supervisor, Attn: 1570 Objections at (509) 684-7080.

Implementation

If no objections are received within the 45-day objection period, the decision notice may be signed after the fifth business day following the end of the objection filing period (36 CFR 218.12 (c) (2)), and implementation may occur. However, we don't expect implementation to begin until summer 2022.

Thank you for your participation in this project,


Joshua White
District Ranger